# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# FINANCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3538
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SMALL PDA IN BANKS
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**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a small Personal Digital Assistance (PDA) like device will, substitute for batik branches functioning in the villages in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the trial of the device has been made in some bank branches in rural areas;

(d) if so, tie result thereof; and ,

(e) the time by which such device is likely to be introduced in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines advising all scheduled commercial banks to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Post Offices and other Civil Societies Organisations (CSOs) as intermediaries in providing financial and banking serv.ces through the appointment of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models to bring in the banking fold the poorest of the poor and to extend the banking facility in rural areas.

In the Annual Policy for the year 2007-08, RBI has again urged the banks to scale up information technology (IT) initiatives for financial inclusion speedily while ensuring that solution:; are highly secure, amenable to audit and follow widely accepted open standards to snsure eventual inter-operability among the different systems.

As of now, a, number of financial inclusion IT enabled models are under pilot by several bank; in several states. In one of such models, the business correspondent carries hand-held devices, which are essentially smart card readers. The information captured is transmitted to a central server where the accounts are maintained. These devices are used for making payments to rural customers and receiving cash from them at their doorsteps.